

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants would like to thank the examiner for the careful consideration given the present application, and for the personal interview conducted on March 25, 2003. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action and the interview, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe and claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

Claims 1-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sasmazel *et al.* (U.S. 6,032,260). For the following reasons, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to further define the “electronic ticket” and the “network electronic ticket” elements, as suggested by the Examiner at the interview. These definitions have been added to all of the independent claims of this case.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a network-linked electronic ticket comprising an “electronic ticket” and a “network electronic ticket” which is “*different from*” the electronic ticket. The “electronic ticket” recited by the claim is for “providing a customer access to a commodity or a service from a provider” (lines 3-5), while the “network electronic ticket” is for “providing the customer access to online information about the commodity or service from an information providing apparatus on a network” (lines 7-10). Sasmazel does not teach these limitations of claim 1.

Sasmazel teaches an “authentication server 350” for *authenticating* a user and *issuing* a *single* eticket in response to a successful authorization (col. 7, lines 1-5). Sasmazel also teaches an authorization server 360 which uses information on the thus issued single eticket to provide access rights to the authenticated user (col. 7, lines 5-13). Thus, Sasmazel teaches but one “eticket” that is used solely for *authenticating* requested access for authorized user (*id.*; see also FIG. 7). The operation could be a request to view a web page or a protected document, for example (FIG. 7 and accompanying text).

The Office action states that the Sasmazel authentication server 350 generates information *different* than the information that it receives. Even if true, this is not relevant to the claim language, because Sasmazel does not teach a network electronic ticket containing *both* an electronic ticket *and* a network electronic ticket as recited in the claim. Further,

Sasmazel does not even suggest that the authentication information provided by the user is part of the eticket, and, in fact, it clearly is not because the authentication information is utilized *before* the eticket is even issued (see col. 7, lines 1-13).

Further, Sasmazel does not suggest using its eticket as an "electronic ticket" as defined in claim 1. Instead, Sasmzel merely teaches that its eticket be used to provide trusted *authentication* functionality to Internet based transactions for protecting access to sensitive information. See col. 6, line 65 to col. 7, line 20. There is no suggestion in Sasmzel that its eticket be comprised of one part for receiving a commodity, or service from a provider *and* a different part for receiving online information about the commodity or service from an information providing apparatus on a network. Thus, Sasmazel does not teach all of the elements and/or limitations of claim 1.

Further, the eticket of Sasmazel is nothing more than an extension of the functionality of the Secure Socket Layer (SSL) of the World-Wide-Web to further ensure that only authorized transactions take place for protected resources (see background section). This type of operation occurs in the background, typically transparent to the user, and is not used for the purchase of commodities and/or services. In contrast, the "electronic ticket" of the invention, is meant to provide functionality similar to that provided by *paper* tickets, for example, such as allowing access to an event (or the purchase of a service or commodity). Nowhere does Sasmazel suggest using its eticket having two parts, one to obtain *access* to an event (or service or commodity) for a user and another to obtain information from an information providing apparatus. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over the reference.

Amended claim 17 recites limitations similar to those discussed for claim 1, and thus claim 17 is also patentable over the reference for the same reasons discussed for claim 1. Claims 2-16, which depend, directly or indirectly, on claim 1 and claims 18-36, which depend, directly or indirectly on claim 17, are all patentable over the references for the same reasons as their parent claims.

The Office action failed to address the new claims 38 and 39 added in the previous amendment. Applicant assumes that those claims were rejected for the same reasons as claim 1. Claims 38 and 39 also contain limitations similar to those of claim 1, and thus those claims are patentable over the reference for the same reasons discussed for claim 1, above.

Further, claim 39 recites a "mobile user terminal for communicating with the service server for purchasing the networked-linked electronic ticket" (lines 13-15) an "information server for communicating with the mobile user terminal for checking the network electronic ticket before providing information to the mobile user terminal via the public network" (lines 16-19) and a

gate terminal for communicating with the mobile user terminal and for automatically checking the electronic ticket before providing the customer access to the commodity, the service, and/or user admission to the event

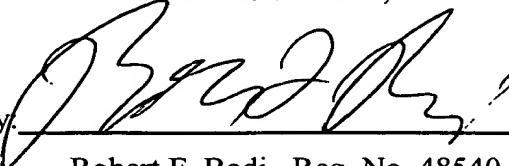
(lines 20-25). None of these elements are suggested anywhere in the reference, and thus claim 39 is patentable over the references for this additional reason. Claims 40 and 41, being directly or indirectly dependent on claim 39, are patentable for the same reasons as claim 39, as well as for the limitations contained therein.

In consideration of the foregoing analysis, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 32808.

Respectfully submitted,

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